

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP**Wet Saline**

FSG No.: G034B1035CO
Major Land Resource Area: 034B - Warm Central Desertic Basins and Plateaus
Land Resource Unit 34B-1: 8-10 inches precipitation zone

PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES

The land resource area 34B-1 occurs in Northeastern Utah and Western Colorado. Utah Counties included in this area are Carbon, Emery, Grand, Duchesne and Uintah. Colorado counties included in this area are Mesa, Delta, Montrose, Garfield, Rio Blanco and Moffat.

The soils in this group are found on flood plains and in narrow alluvial valleys.

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Elevation (feet):	4000	7000
Slope (percent):	0	15
Flooding:		
Frequency:	Rare	Rare
Duration:	Brief	Brief
Ponding:		
Depth (inches):		
Frequency:	None	None
Duration:	None	None
Runoff Class:	Low	Low

CLIMATIC FEATURES

The climate for this land resource area is considered arid or semi arid. The yearly total annual precipitation for this resource area ranges from 8-10 inches. Following are data for two climate stations within this precipitation zone. For data from a climate station nearer to your location, access the national Water and Climate Center at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/>, or visit your local Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office.

Temperature Data Related To Growth of Plants										
County/ State	Climate Station	Elevation (Feet)	Growing Degree-Day Units †		Growing Season					
					Length of Period		Average Date of 32° F		Average Date of 28° F	
			Base 50°F	Base 40°F	32°F	28°F	Last frost in Spring	First Frost in Fall	Last Killing freeze in Spring	First Killing freeze in Fall
Mesa/CO	Fruita	4477	2950	5102	117	142	May 30	Sep. 16	May 17	Sep. 28
Duchesne /UT	Duchesne	5530	2099	4021	111	128	May 31	Sep.13	May 14	Sep. 15

† **Growing Degree Day Units** are computed as the difference between the daily average temperature and the base temperature. (Daily Average Temperature - Base Temperature) One unit is accumulated for each degree Fahrenheit the average temperature is above the base temperature. Negative numbers are discarded.

Example: If the day's high temperature was 95 and the low temperature was 55, the base 50 heating degree-day units is $[(95 + 55) / 2] - 50 = 25$. This is done for each day of the month and summed.

Precipitation and Temperature, Monthly and Annual Average				
Month	Precipitation (inches)		Temperature (°F)	
	Fruita Station	Duchesne Station	Fruita Station	Duchesne Station
January	0.59	0.43	23.3	20.0
February	0.47	0.51	32.3	25.2
March	0.84	0.64	41.1	32.4
April	0.68	0.84	50.1	40.9
May	0.87	0.91	59.6	49.7
June	0.51	0.90	68.8	58.5
July	0.76	0.97	75.1	65.4
August	0.86	1.00	72.5	63.4
September	0.71	1.17	63.4	54.6
October	0.94	0.94	51.4	43.5
November	0.74	0.52	38.3	31.7
December	0.66	0.76	27.4	21.4
Annual Average	8.63	9.59	50.3	42.2

Climate Station	Location	From	To
CO3146	Fruita 1 W	1961	1990
UT2253	Duchesne	1961	1990

SOIL PROPERTIES

This group consists of very deep, poorly drained, moderately fine textured soils. The available water capacity is high, and permeability is moderately slow.

Drainage Class:	Poorly drained	To	Poorly drained
Permeability Class: (0 - 40 inches)	Moderately slow	To	Moderately slow
Frost Action Class:	High	To	High

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Depth:	60	>60
Organic Matter (percent): (surface layer)	3.0	5.0
Electrical Conductivity (mmhos/cm): (0 - 24 inches)	4	16
Sodium Absorption Ratio: (0 - 12 inches)	1	5
Soil Reaction (1:1) Water (pH): (0 - 12 inches)	7.4	8.4
Available Water Capacity (inches): (0 - 60 inches)	9	12
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (percent): (0 - 12 inches)	10	>15

ADAPTED SPECIES LIST

The followings forage species are adapted to grow on the soils in this group. Additional information concerning plant characteristics of a number of the listed species as well as individual cultivars of many of these species can be accessed at the following web site: <http://plants.usda.gov/>

Warm Season Grasses	Plant Symbol	Dryland	Irrigated
Alkali sacaton	SPAI	F	F
Inland saltgrass	DISP5	F	F

G - Good adaptation for forage production on this group of soils in this MLRA

F - Fair adaptation but will produce at its highest potential

NS - Species is not suited or adapted to the site and should not be planted

PRODUCTION ESTIMATES

Production estimates listed here should only be used for making general management recommendations. On-site production information should always be used for making detailed planning and management recommendations.

Listed below are low and high production estimates for the more commonly grown forages for this group. The high forage production estimates are based on dense, vigorous stands of climatically adapted, superior performing cultivars. Stands are properly fertilized to obtain high yields. Pest infestations are kept below economic thresholds. Mechanical harvests are managed to maintain stand life by cutting at appropriate stages of maturity and harvest intervals. Optimum beginning and ending grazing heights are adhered to, if stands are grazed. Adequate time is allowed for plant recovery before entering winter dormancy under both harvest regimes.

These production estimates represent total annual above ground plant production on an air-dry-matter basis. Production estimates for hay and grazing can be calculated from these numbers by multiplying them by a harvest efficiency factor. Seventy- percent harvest efficiency is commonly used when converting to hay yields. Pasture harvest efficiency depends upon the grazing management system applied, and usually ranges from 25 to 50 percent efficiency.

Forage Crop	Dryland		Irrigated	
	Production Range (lb/ac)		Production Range (lb/ac)	
	Low	High	Low	High
Alkali sacaton	400	800	2100	4300
Inland saltgrass	500	1000	1400	2900

FORAGE GROWTH CURVES

Growth Curve Number: CO1232
Growth Curve Name: Warm-Season Grasses
Growth Curve Description: Grand Valley, Irrigated Pasture
Percent Production by Month:

<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
0	0	0	0	5	20	40	25	5	5	0	0

SOIL LIMITATIONS

Water Table - This Forage suitability group has soils that have shallow water tables (less than 18 inches) that severely limit forage species selection. In addition, trafficability is limited due wet top soils.

Soil Compaction - These soils are susceptible to compaction, especially if grazed or hayed when topsoil is too wet. Soil compaction can reduce forage production.

Salinity - A saturation extract of these soils has an electrical conductivity ranging from 4-16 mmhos/cm, which is considered slightly saline to moderately saline. Moderately saline soils depress the yields of even salt tolerant forages and may render them less palatable. Forage yields are reduced at this level of salinity due to limited uptake of minerals and water. The available water capacity of saline soils is reduced by 25 % for each 4 mmhos /cm of electrical conductivity.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Water Table - To insure forage production; use only species adapted to this forage suitability group.

Soil Compaction - Defer grazing or delay haying when topsoil is wet to minimized the effects of soil compaction and maintain a healthy forage stand. Allow the soil to dry to field capacity before entering forage stand with machinery or livestock.

Salinity - Plant only salt-tolerant forage species to insure production.

FSG DOCUMENTATION

Similar FSGs:

FSG ID	FSG Narrative
G034B1034CO	The wet group is similar but does not have a high salinity level

References:

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. Land Resource Regions and Major Land Resource Areas of The United States. Agriculture Handbook 296. Washington, D.C.

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. National Water and Climate Center. <http://www.wwc.nrcs.usda.gov/>

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Official Soil Series Descriptions. <http://soils.usda.gov/classification/main.htm>

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 1997. National Range and Pasture Handbook. Grazing Lands Technology Institute.

Brummer, J.E., C.H., Pearson, and J. J. Johnson. 2000. Colorado Forage Research 1999. Alfalfa, Irrigated Pastures and Mountain Meadows. Colorado State University , Agricultural Experiment Station, Technical Report TR00-6.

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2000. Colorado Plant Materials Technical Note No. 59 (Revised).

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. The PLANTS database. 2002. <http://plants.usda.gov/>

Personal Communication from various Technical Specialists from Colorado Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Cooley, A.W., C.H., Pearson and J. Brummer. Intermountain Grass and Legume Forage Production Manual. Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.

Montana State University. 2000. Montana Interagency plant Materials Handbook for Forage Production, Conservation, Reclamation, and Wildlife. MSU Extension Service EB 69.

STATE CORRELATION:

This site has been correlated with the following states: UT

FORAGE SUITABILITY GROUP APPROVAL:

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